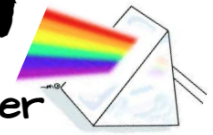




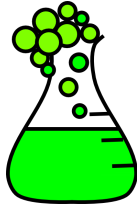
THE SCIENCE SPECTRUM

Mrs. Sweeney & Mrs. Porchetta's Newsletter
Volume 15 Issue 1



Welcome Back!

Our beakers are bubbling over with excitement as we begin our new and improved school year. We will be your 8th Grade Physical Science teachers for your final year of middle school! While it will take some time to become acclimated to our new schedule and learn all of the procedures for each class, we are invested in providing each student with an extraordinary experience. As 8th graders, this school year will be unforgettable, especially with the exploration of chemical reactions, testing the laws of physics, and much more!



assignments and important dates for tests, quizzes and projects. An assortment of helpful guides and hints, such as measurement conversions, mathematical aids, and fun facts, can also be found in the planners.

A general copy of the Warren Middle School's Code of Conduct is provided on the WMS Website. Eighth graders are expected to understand the rules and regulations of the school, as well as set an example for the 7th graders and incoming 6th graders. If you need to brush up on any of our policies, please refer to the online document.



Manners Matter

In order to create a safe and cooperative classroom learning environment, we must respect each other in everything we do. Therefore, positive attitudes are encouraged. If any problems are encountered, together we can solve them. To grow and learn in the best possible manner, we will always be on the watch for 'pleases,' 'thank you's,' and any other acts of kindness.



School Policy



Like last year, Warren Middle School will provide each student with an individual student planner. Planners should be brought to each class in order to keep track of daily homework

Our Science Requirements



Preparation and organization will be key tools this year, and ultimately, for the rest of your life! The materials we would like every student to have and bring to our class **everyday** include the following:

1. A three ring binder with paper and 5 dividers labeled Do Now, Homework, Notes, Labs, and Tests/Quizzes
2. Both a pencil and a pen of blue or black ink
3. A highlighter

Being prepared does not only include bringing the necessary materials and a positive attitude to class, but also arriving to class on time, studying for tests and quizzes, handing in

homework and projects on the due date, and compiling and writing laboratory investigations in the proper format. Homework will not be accepted any later than its due date, with the exception of those who have been absent or submit a parent/guardian note. Tests, quizzes, and labs must also be made up promptly in the case of an absence. If a student attends Band Lessons, E2, or other school related activities, homework must be submitted before class and the class assignments picked up and completed. Please remember that it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed work!

During your science class, handouts and labs with the exact directions and requirements to each assignment will be provided to students. Extra copies of each assignment will be kept in the classroom and be readily available to students. It is the student's responsibility to complete the assignment according to the directions. A weekly overview of classwork and homework will be posted in Google Classroom.



Topics of Study



The majority of our learning time will be spent discovering science through labs, activities, and hands-on learning. All lessons follow the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and infuse STEM and STEAM concepts. We will begin the first marking period by reviewing the scientific method and introduce new lab safety procedures, which includes how to properly handle and measure various scientific tools. Other 8th grade topics of exploration encompass matter and energy, chemical interactions, and physics. For an in depth look into the 8th Grade Curriculum, refer to the district website.

In 8th grade, we will be using the textbook titled *Physical Science: Concepts in Action* by the Pearson - Prentice Hall Publishers. This book will be kept at each student's home, and classroom copies will be provided when needed during class.

These textbooks will be used as reference guides and extra practice to reinforce the topics studied in our science class.



Online Resources



Mrs. Sweeney & Ms. Porchetta have a Teacher Page that can be found on the Warren Township Board of Education Website under the Middle School. This website correlates to the 8th grade curriculum and contains announcements such as homework, tests, quizzes, study guides, and internet resources. Daily homework assignments will be posted; however, students are still required to record their homework assignments during the time allotted in class.

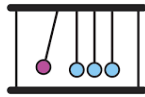


Our Google Classroom contains both a weekly overview of classwork and homework which mirrors the teacher website mentioned in

the previous paragraph. Select assignments will be posted in Classroom, however due to the nature of science lab work some explorations will be completed on paper. This will encourage student collaboration, creativity, and build organizational skills.



Grading



Grades will be posted on the *Genesis Student/Parent Portal* to ensure that families can view student progress. A point system with the below formula will be used:

Grading categories include:

Homework	» 10 points each
Labs / Classwork	» 25-75 points each
Notebook Organization	» 25-50 points each
Quizzes	» 50-100 points each
Tests & Projects	» 150-200 points each

To check grades visit the WTBOE Website and click on Genesis, enter your login and password, click submit and find our Science class.

Closing Note



We are excited to share the awesome world of physical science with you. We certainly look forward to meeting and getting to know all of our students. The labs you will perform this year are inspiring as well as jaw dropping. Keep an eye out for 'Bubbles of Fire', the importance of safety goggles, as well as an in class experimental design.

Please feel free to email us if you have any questions or concerns. Can't wait to explore!



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September 1, 2021



My child, _____ has shown and reviewed with me the following: The Science Spectrum Newsletter, The Science Safety Contract, and the school planner. Please return this tag next class.

Thank you,
Mrs. Sweeney & Mrs. Porchetta
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____